



State of Delaware
Office of the Lt. Governor

For Immediate Release:
Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Contact: Doug Gramiak
(302) 577-8787
(302) 668-6470 cell

*Lt. Governor Carney, MWUL President Jones
Present Disparities Task Force Recommendations*

Dover — Lt. Governor John Carney and Tyrone Jones, Interim President of the Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League (MWUL), today presented recommendations developed by the Governor's Task Force on Health Disparities. The recommendations are intended to help the Division of Public Health and its community partners develop a comprehensive plan to reduce health disparities in Delaware.

"Reducing health disparities and increasing access to high quality care are two of the greatest challenges we have in improving the overall health of Delaware," said Lt. Governor Carney, who co-chaired the committee with Lisa Rochester (former Blunt-Bradley), former president of the MWUL. "These recommendations represent a lot of hard work by many dedicated health and community leaders throughout the state. They are the result of some great partnerships and a process that began with a statewide summit over two years ago. Our state has already made some impressive strides in cancer screening and treatment and these recommendations give us a plan to make progress in other areas."

The Governor's Task Force on Health Disparities was created by Governor Minner's Executive Order No. 68. The recommendations target improvements in health education, systems of care, social context, access to high quality healthcare, and the workforce. The task force met for over a year and based their recommendations on existing data, consumer input, and consultation from national experts.

"On behalf of the Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League, we recognize the profound toll that health disparities take on our community and applaud the work of the Health Disparities Task Force," MWUL President Jones said. "Now is the time for us to challenge ourselves, government, the medical profession, institutions of higher education,

business and the larger community to commit to making real change in the disparities between whites and people of color.”

The recommendations presented today were broken down into five sections, reflecting the work of the task force’s five committees: social context, workforce, access to quality care, systems of care and education. Chairing the committees were Dr. Timothy Barnekov and Dr. Lisa Barkley (social context); Dr. Janice Tildon-Burton and Debra Singletary (workforce); Rep. Terry Schooley (access to quality care); Lolita Lopez and Dr. Anthony Policastro (systems of care); and Dr. Jaime “Gus” Rivera (education).

The Division of Public Health will take the recommendations and develop and implement a detailed plan of action. Dr. Jaime Rivera, director of the Division of Public Health, was present at today’s presentation as well as Secretary of Health and Social Services Vince Meconi.

For more information about the Governor’s Task Force on Health Disparities or copies of the recommendations, please call Lt. Governor Carney’s office at (302) 577-8787 or visit www.ltgov.delaware.gov